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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My comments on the Microsoft Settlement

The computer and software business is very different from normal consumer goods businesses. For example, with gasoline, it doesn't matter which brand you buy. But in the computer business it is extremely important to be compatible with existing software. That is why the consumer doesn't want ten different operating systems. The price of the operating system and other software is relatively irrelevant, compared to the education cost.

That is why customers tend to purchase software from the dominant player in the field. We don't want installation problems and re-training costs.

I would guess that the cost for training is more than ten times the cost of the software itself. In other words, the cost of the software purchase is insignificant for most companies. It was different in the early eithies, when the purchase price was ten times higher! (Vax hardware and software). So, for the average company, the so called monopoly is actually good for the economy. The consumer himself, chooses the dominating standard.

It have tried to switch to Linux and MacIntosh, but it is so hard to learn from scratch.

I think the economic boom of the nineties, was caused by the expensive standard software created by Microsoft. The economic boom didn't end until there was a threat to damage and split Microsoft. So, law suite against Microsoft has done more damage to the consumer, than Microsoft has done to the consumer.

That is my honest opinion.

Nils Thorell